

EXAMINER'S COMMENT/REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. All previous rejections have been overcome by the amendment filed on September 20, 2006 and the rejections are withdrawn. *Claims 1-10* are now pending in the application.
2. Upon further consideration, the restriction requirement dated August 10, 2005 has been withdrawn and claims 8-10 are rejoined with group I invention.
3. This supplemental allowance overrides the NOA dated 12/11/06 in which allowance of rejoined claims 9 and 10 were inadvertently omitted.

Reasons For Allowance

4. *Claims 1-10* are allowed.
5. The following is an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance:

The instant claims are allowable over prior art to Arkens et al. (US 5, 977,232).

The present claims are directed to an aqueous composition comprising a polyacid comprising at least two carboxylic acid groups or salts thereof, a polyol and an emulsion polymer comprising as copolymerized units, greater than 30% by wt., based on the wt. of the polymer solids, ethylenically unsaturated acrylic monomer comprising C5 or greater alkyl group.

Prior art to Arkens et al. concerns formaldehyde-free, accelerated cure, aqueous composition for bonding glass fiber heat resistant non wovens. The aqueous compositions

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comprises (a) a polyacid, (b) an active hydrogen compound containing at least two active hydrogen groups selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl, primary amino, secondary amino and mixtures thereof, wherein the ratio of the number of equivalents of said carboxylic acid groups, anhydride groups or salts thereof to the number of equivalents of said hydroxyl groups is from 1 to 0.01 to 1/3, and wherein said carboxylic acid groups, anhydride or salts thereof are neutralized to an extent of less than 35% with a fixed base.

The prior art does not teach or suggest inclusion of an emulsion polymer comprising as copolymerized units, greater than 30% by wt., based on the wt. of the polymer solids, ethylenically unsaturated acrylic monomer comprising C5 or greater alkyl group in the binder composition.

Therefore, the instantly claimed invention is deemed allowable over closest prior art of record as per said art neither anticipating nor rendering, alone or in combination, the instantly claimed invention.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the Issue Fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.

Future Correspondence

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Satya Sastri whose telephone number is 571-272-1112.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Wu can be reached on 571-272-1114. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273 8300 for regular communications. The unofficial direct fax phone number to the Examiner's desk is 571-273-1112.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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SATYA SASTRI

January 26, 2007

David Wu

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